seen in most parts of the city treating the patients privately. Common ailments are malaria, chronic diarrhea, tuberculoses, typhoid, acute respiratory infection and parasitoses.

In order to keep operational, and accelerate the current progress made in health, additional resources, human and financial, are desperately needed. Areas needing attention include: maternal and child care, improved and advanced medical equipment, training facilities, potable water, and health education to be conducted in schools and mosques. These efforts and facilities are recommended to be provincial, district and village wide.

8. INDUSTRY

There are three sizable industries in Helmand province described as follows[17]:

1. Bust cotton mill corporation;
2. Hajari and Najari plants (Stone cutting and furniture manufacturing); and
3. Girishk Cotton mill

The industries were established some 30-40 years ago. The first two are located in Lashkar Gah city, while the third one is in Girishk. Bust cotton mill corporation has 286 laborers and 101 official staff producing cotton cake, soap and cotton seed oil. Its pre-war market include Hungry, Russia, England, Germany and Yugoslavia. The factory is in good condition and functioning normally. Presently it exports its cotton to Pakistan but its oil production is locally used for human consumption and cotton cake is fed to the livestock.

Hajari, the modern stone cutting and polishing plant, has been damaged and requires major repairs, though the building is intact. Hajari produces bold, plain, and fancy tiles, electric insulators, pottery, ash trays, and toilet tiles. In pre-war times it sold its good in Kabul through the Hajari and Najari plant of Kabul. Najari's furniture manufacturing plant is operational and makes various kinds of furniture based on order and prior arrangement. Its products are also used by the Helmand valley authorities, for furnishing the governmental departments, private corporations, and private homes. Hajari Najari has five officials, while Najari has 15 laborers and five auxiliary staff.

The Girishk cotton mill factory, which is associated with the Bust cotton mill corporation, is not functioning due to the lack of raw materials (replaced by opium cultivation) and consequently the factory has fallen into decay. The expansion and successful operation of the factory depend on the growth in production of raw local materials.

Cottage industries do not exist on a sizable scale. The Uzbek tribes who used to live in Helmand before the war had some small size carpet and rug weaving cottage industries but since they are no longer living there this industry has disappeared. The fact that handicrafts tend to be an inherited art and that many of the settlers, with some important exceptions, lack this inheritance has caused the disappearance of cottage industries.

[17]Bust Mill Corporation and Hajari and Najari Plants.

8.1. Electricity Generating Stations

A. Kajakai Electric Power

Kajaki Dam, located in Kajaki District, is built on the Helmand River. It has two turbines, both operational, and supplies electricity to Helmand and Kandahar Provinces. The total generating capacity of the dam amounts to 33 mega watts. The number of technical and non-technical staff, including those working in the Lashkar Gah sub-station, range from 600-725. For domestic consumption the charging rate is Afs.700 per unit, and for business and industry it is Afs.1000 per unit. It is apparently cheaper to use electricity than kerosene for lighting, cooling, and heating purposes.[18]

According to the Power Department, the dam which had not been functioning for the past 25 years, due to damages at the Kajaki dam station, and the stripping of power lines, has been repaired by the Taliban authority at the cost of US$20 million excluding the concrete pylons which were largely intact. US$18 million was paid by the Taliban authority, while the rest came from UN agencies such as WFP and UNDCP according to the authorities. However, when the UNDCP Khanishin ional office in Kandahar was contacted, UNDCP stated that they assisted in the repairing of the Kandahar sub-station not the Kajaki dam. They assisted the authority with replaccment parts, estimating the cost at US$400,000-500,000 in return for opium cultivation reduction by 20 percent. WFP Khanishin ional office in Kandahar conceded the claim made by the Helmand power station, but added nothing was paid in cash as reported by the head of the power station, WFP only covered the labor cost under the food for work program.

B. Girishk Electric Power

This dam is located in Girishk District and has two turbines, one is operational while the other is out of order. The total generating capacity is 1.2 mega watts. It delivers electricity to the center of Girishk and its related villages. Since all its machinery, pylon and power lines were intact it was made operational by the Taliban authority at little expense. The charging rate is the same as in Helmand.

9. VETERINARY SERVICES

MCI and VARA are the only NGOs providing veterinary services in the province. MCI has six clinics: Lashkar Gah city, Nawa Barakzai , Garmser, Musa Qala, Kajaki and Naw Zad. VARA has clinics in Girishk with one veterinarian and two paravets, in Naw Zad with 3 paravets, Sangin with two paravets, while Nadi-Ali and Marja have three paravets each. Efforts were made both in the MCI sub-office in Helmand and Kandahar to find out the exact number of the staff working in the MCI veterinary clinics but since the technical staff were not present, the effort was in vain.

[18]Helmand's Power Department, cross checked with UNDCP & WFP based in Kandahar.

10. EDUCATION FACILITIES

There are three types of educational institutions in Helmand Province. In mosques and madrases mainly religious education is given, while in schools some formal education is provided (see Table 2).

Table 2. Education facilities of Helmand Province.[19]

Name of school	Location	Type of school	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Remarks
Agriculture technical Lycee	Lashkar Gah	High School	50	8	Funded by Government
Shahid Mullah Nazir Akhund	Lashkar Gah	High School	1000	15	Funded by Government
Mullah Abdullah Akhund	Lashkar Gah	High School	250	12	Funded by Government
Osmania	Lashkar Gah	High School	200	12	Funded by Government
Shahid Rahmatullah	Girishk	High School	300	9	Funded by Government
Mechanical Lycee	Girishk	High School	50	7	Funded by Government
Seerat Muslameen	Garmser	High School	200	7	Funded by Government

Under Taliban control it is not permissible to send girls to school. All the above mentioned schools are from grade one up to 12 grade. According to the Education Department, there are about 500 religious schools and 61 dormitories (unofficial) throughout the province, with around 100,000 students enrolled. They are all supposedly self financed. Home schools do not exist but there are mosques in each village where religious teachings are taught to the children age 5-15. Formal education is rare in the generation growing up since the war and it was only the elder sons of the households who received education before the war. The Education Department further stated that all the schools are in poor conditions and need to be repaired. The Taliban are the only funding source for the existing education infrastructure.

[19] Helmand's Education Department based in Lashkar Gah.

11. CANALS

In Helmand Province there are four major canals: Boghra canal, Nahr-e-Saraj canal, Darweshan canal and Shamalan canal.

Boghra canal, located in Girishk District, has recently been rehabilitated by MCI at the length of 94 km. Nahr-e-Saraj which is being enlarged and improved by the Agriculture Department of Helmand Province will open new land for agriculture in Yakchal area - apparently it will bring 50,000 hectares of land under its control. According to the HVA and MCI, all the major canals require some rehabilitation work in term of aqueducts, siphons, diversion dams, culverts and intake gates.

The drainage system especially in Marja and Nad-e-Ali needs to be rehabilitated as it is essential for carrying off surplus water and keeping the water table low. It is recommended to interested agencies to include the drainage systems in their rehabilitation program. It was difficult to collect information about all the sub-canals located in different areas which originate from the above four main canals in a short period of time, but those which need immediate address are described in Table 3.

Table: 3. Canals, required immediate reconstruction.[20] [21]

No.	Name of Canal	Location by District	Source of water	Intake status
1.	Bertaka	Garmser	Helmand River	Local*
2.	Hazarjuft	Garmser	Helmand River	Local
3.	Bagat-e-Ulia	Garmser	Helmand River	Local
4.	Bagat-e-Sufla	Garmser	Helmand River	Local
5.	Landi Awal	Garmser	Helmand River	Local
6.	Dewalak	Deshu	Helmand River	Local
7.	Khanishin	Deshu	Helmand River	Local
8.	Qala-e-Naw	Deshu	Helmand River	Local
9.	Taghaz	Deshu	Helmand River	Local
10.	Malakhan	Deshu	Helmand River	Local
11.	Khair Abad	Deshu	Helmand River	Local
12.	Deshu	Khanishin	Helmand River	Local
13.	Khawaja Ali Ulia	Khanishin	Helmand River	Local
14.	Khawaja Ali Sufla	Khanishin	Helmand River	Local
15.	Palalak	Khanishin	Helmand River	Local
16.	Landai Dowm	Khanishin	Helmand River	Local
17.	Kajakai Ulia	Kajaki	Helmand River	Local
18.	Kajaki Sufla	Kajaki	Helmand River	Local
19.	Sangin Toghi	Kajaki	Helmand River	Local
20.	Qalh-e-Gaz	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand River	Local
21.	Sarban Qala	Kajaki	Helmand River	Local
22.	Shorakai	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand River	Local
24.	Ab Bazan	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand River	Local
25.	Sayedan	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand River	Local
26.	Noor Zahi	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand River	Local
27.	Tughi Malgar	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand River	Local
28.	Baba Jee	Nahr-e-Saraj	Helmand River	Local
29.	Qalah-e-Bust	Lashkar Gah	Helmand River	Local
30.	Samizi	Lashkar Gah	Helmand River	Local

- Local intakes, are the intakes which are locally made of stone and wood.

[20]Data is collected from the Helmand Valley Authority (HVA).
[21] FAO, Peshawar, 1998.

12. AID AGENCIES

Helmand Province has received negligible assistance from the aid agencies for the past two decades. The Department of Foreign Affairs stated that DACCAR has pulled out from Helmand without any reasons, but when DACCAR's office was contacted it said they have stopped their activities in the center, but not in Helmand as reported by the Foreign Affairs Department. DACCAR has been involved in drinking water projects since 1996 and at present implementing projects in Nahr-e-Saraj, Kajaki, Musa Qala, Sangin and Garmser, but operating from of Kandahar.[22] According to DACCAR, 290,720 (43%) of that population has been served with drinking water and sanitation programs from 1996-1998.

WHO, based in Kandahar, periodically provide some assistance in terms of drug and medical equipment to the existing hospitals and clinics channeled through the Health Department. MCI is the only international NGO involved in a number of programs and has a sub-office in Lashkar Gah. UNICEF is supplying human vaccines and has a water and sanitation program, it has recently hired a consultant to assess the priority needs including the sewerage system. Shelter Now International is producing girders and concrete slabs at a subsidized rate for their housing programs. HAFO, an Afghan NGO, has been involved in agriculture, vocational training and survey programs. WFP, based in Kandahar, is involved in funding some projects implemented by WFP partners. There are some agencies such as DAFA, MCPA, and MDC with demining programs. The following charts indicate the activities of NGOs during the past one decade.[23]

[22]Helmand's Foreign Affairs Department and DACCAR's Report, 1998.
[23]ACBAR's Database 1990-1998.

Table 4: NGOs activities in 1990

NGOs	Activity	Description
MCI	AGRIC: Other	PVO Support: ag rehab. (wheat production / orchard rehab. / irrigation repair / cash crop pilot projects / ag assessment / animal health.
MCI	CONST: Road	Road repair project-to create a district-level NGO to jointly plan & implement a project to rebuild, repair & resurface 28.5 Km of primary roads.
MCI	HEALTH: Basic Clinic	3 mid-level HWs / 1 dental tech & 1 lab tech - Lab / dental & OPD.
MCI	HEALTH: Basic Post	2 first aiders & 1 mid-level HW - first aid & OPD.
MSH	HEALTH: Basic Post	1 BHW
IMC	HEALTH: Compr.Clinic	1 MD / 1 dentist / 1 lab tech. - OPD / lab / dental.
HI	HEALTH: Disabled Reh	4 orthopaedic technicians manufacture crutches & prostheses.
GAF	HEALTH: Vaccination	Outreach EPI program from Nadi Ali.
GAF	HEALTH: Vaccination	Mobile vaccination team with 3 vaccinators.
MCI	WATER: Structure	Irrigation improvement-to clean, repair & improve the flow capacity of apx. 150 irrigation systems.

Table 5: NGOs activities in 1991

NGOs	Activity	Description
DAFA	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of 343215 Sqm area (by demining teams)
MCPA	MINES: Survey	1,468,911 Sqm agri-land / road / residential/ grazing.
MCPA	MINES: Survey	331,550 Sqm agri. Land / road & grazing.
MCI	WATER: Structure	Rehabilitation of intake structure on the Darweshan river.

Table 6: NGOs activities in 1992

NGOs	Activity	Description
ARO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Wheat seed multiplication.
HAFO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Multiplication of improved wheat, maize, cotton seed & fertilizer.
HRO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Distribution of 10 MT wheat seed and 10 MT DAP.
HRO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Distribution of 24 MT DAP, 6 MT urea, 4 MT maize seed and 1 MT cotton seed.
SCA	AGRIC: Crop Product	Distribution of 2 MT wheat seed & 2 MT DAP.
SWFAO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Multiplication of wheat seed with fertilizer.
SWFAO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Multiplication of maize seed & mung bean with fertilizer.
SWFAO	AGRIC: Fruit Trees	Fruit trees distribution.
SCA	AGRIC: Plant Protec	Provision of 0.2 MT agrochemicals.
SCA	AGRIC: Research	1 crop variety testing trial of wheat.
VITA	CONST: Bridge	Construction of (wooden) bridge.
MCI	CONST: Road	Repair Paisang-Tangi road.
HI	HEALTH: Disabled Reh	4 orthopaedic technicians manufacture crutches & prostheses.
MSH	HEALTH: Vaccination	4 vaccinators cover 29 villages in Kajaki district of Helmand province. Target groups: children 0-2 years and women 5-45 years.
SWFAO	INCOME: Handicrafts	Handicraft for women.
OMAR	MINES: Awareness	Safety lessons - 1974 people participated.
DAFA	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of 39680 Sqm area (by demining teams).
MCPA	MINES: Survey	224,260 Sqm agri.land / road / residential & irrigation.
MCI	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of Gharbie & Shargie canal.
VITA	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of 25 km canal, benefit 450 families.
MCI	WATER: Flood Control	Construction of protection dike.
MCI	WATER: Flood Control	Construction of flood protection.
MCI	WATER: Structure	Rehabilitation of New Shamalan intake.

Table 7: NGOs activities 1993

NGOs	Activity	Description
ARO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Wheat seed for multiplication.
ARO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Summer crop multiplication.
ARO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Maize & mung bean for multiplication.
AURC	AGRIC: Crop Product	5 MT maize & 5 MT DAP to 34 farmers for multiplication.
RIFRA	AGRIC: Crop Product	Multiplication of 10 MT wheat seed & fertilizer.
SCA	AGRIC: Crop Product	Distribution of 2.5 MT wheat seed & 2.5 MT DAP.
SWFAO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Multiplication of maize seed & mung bean with fertilizer.
VARA	AGRIC: Crop Product	Distribution of 5 MT wheat seed & 5 MT DAP.
HAFO	AGRIC: Livestock	Bee keeping & training program.
SCA	AGRIC: Other	Agriculture survey on 65 villages.
SCA	AGRIC: Plant Protec	Provision of 0.16 MT agrochemicals.
MCI	AGRIC: Vet	Animal mass vaccination.
MCI	CONST: Storage	Grain Storage Bin project.
CRAA	EDUCAT: Other	Narcotic awareness program.
BURC	HEALTH: Med.Training	Training of 30 women in mid wife training (4 months).
ARO	HEALTH: Other	Hospital equipment.
MSH	HEALTH: Vaccination	4 vaccinators under PMD supervision conduct immunization program. Target groups: children 0-2 years and women 5-45 years.
ARO	INCOME: Skill Train.	Shoe making training for disabled.
DAFA	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of 793470 Sqm area (by demining teams).
MCPA	MINES: Survey	1,230,648 Sqm agri. Land / road / residential / irrigation & grazing.
AURC	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of 11.9 Km canal, irrigate 1080 hectares & benefit 2800 farmers.
FRF	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of 6.05 Km canal, irrigate 600 jeribs & benefit 150 families.
MCI	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of canal & reconstruction of flood control
VARA	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of 25 Km canal irrigate 10,900 jeirbs & benefit 560 families.
HAFO	WATER: Drinking	Reconstruction of 15 wells for drinking water & watering animals.

Table 8: NGOs activities in 1994

NGOs	Activity	Description
AURC	AGRIC: Crop Product	1.35 MT maize, 270 Kg mung bean & 3 MT DAP to 29 farmers for multiplication.
ARO	AGRIC: Plant Protec	Locust eradication.
MCI	AGRIC: Plant Protec	Grape & almond pest management.
MCI	AGRIC: Vet	Veterinary pharmacy management course.
ESAR	CONST: Pub.Building	Construction of Naqil Abad Khushal Kali primary school.
MCI	CONST: Road	Repair of road Lashkar Gah-Dorai.
UNO	EDUCAT: Other	Distribution of 12191 textbooks & other instructional materials.
MCI	EDUCAT: Teacher T.	Teacher training program.
DAFA	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of 3077777 Sqm area (by demining teams).
VARA	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of 25 Km canal irrigate 8000 jeirbs & benefit 850 families.
ARPD	WATER: Karez	Cleaning 6 Km Karez (12.9 Km), irrigate 170 hectares & benefit 204 families.
MCI	WATER: Structure	Reconstruction of Darweshan canal gate.

1. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS) or Habitat through ACBAR has conducted a village baseline and household socio-economic survey in Helmand province, during the last 4 months of 1999.

The objective of the survey was to determine the status of existing economic and social infrastructure, providing an inventory of the current state of available resources on a provincial, district and village level for development activities.

2. METHODOLOGY

According to the contract, the ACBAR Survey Unit (ASU) consultant's responsibility was to provide basic information about Helmand through research in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The consultant, with assistance from the ASU report writer, conducted research at the ACBAR Resource and Information Center (ARIC) and FAO libraries in Peshawar and traveled to Helmand to visit local authorities and community based organizations.

The consultant collected information from UN agencies, NGOs working in Helmand province, the Helmand Valley Authority (HVA), and the Departments of Education, Health, Power, Irrigation, Mine and Industry, Planning, and Foreign Affairs. It is hoped that the data will be used by agencies interested in working in Helmand as a reference for future rehabilitation and development programs.

The Helmand Profile is an overview of the social and economic conditions in the province, a compilation of information derived from different sources as mentioned in the references. The profile highlights geographical localities, ethnic groups, the activities of NGOs in Helmand during the last decade, the agricultural production of Helmand, and considers the impact of war on these components of Helmand society.

Table 9: NGOs activities in 1995

NGOs	Activity	Description
ARO	AGRIC: Crop Product	Multiplication of 2.5 MT maize seed.
MCI	AGRIC: Crop Product	Seed production of processing in different villages.
MRORA	AGRIC: Crop Product	Maize, mung bean & cotton seed multiplication.
MCI	AGRIC: Fruit Trees	Nursery projects, tree plantation & spraying of trees in different villages.
ARDA	AGRIC: Livestock	Provision of poultry training & incubators to men & women
MCI	AGRIC: Other	Apricot drying projects in different villages.
MCI	AGRIC: Vet	Veterinary services in different villages.
VARA	AGRIC: Vet	2 DVM / 14 PVT / 15 BEWs for vaccination, deworming & treatment.
MCI	CONST: Road	Construction of 14 Km Dorai road.
IBNSINA	HEALTH: Basic Clinic	Treatment of common diseases / 30-50 patient/day / 1 MD / 1 nurse / 1 mid-level HW/ 1 dental tech. / 1 lab tech. / 1 vaccinator / 1 receptionist.
IBNSINA	HEALTH: MCH	Treatment of common diseases / 30-50 patient/day / 2 MD / 1 nurse / 1 mid-level HW / 1 lab tech. / 1 vaccinator / 1 receptionist / 1 Dai supervisor.
BURC	HEALTH: Med.Training	TBA training for 30 women.
AURC	INCOME: Skill Train.	Widows tailor training course for 40 trainees.
RPSA	INCOME: Skill Train.	Providing vocational skills to students as well as production.
OMAR	MINES: Awareness	Safety lesson - 3,718 people participated.
MDC	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of different mine fields.
MCPA	MINES: DeminerTrain	Training of 275 Mine Clearance personnel in 11 courses.
MCPA	MINES: Survey	604,975 Sqm gari. Land / residential / road & grazing.
MCI	SOCIAL:Other	Drug control projects in different villages.
BURC	WATER: Canal	Rehabilitation of Sharqa drain.
KMA	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of 8 Km canal.
RAFA	WATER: Canal	Cleaning of drainage.
VARA	WATER: Canal	Rehabilitation of 13.3 Km canal to irrigate 11,000 jeribs & benefit 250 families.

Table 10: NGOs activities in 1996

NGOs	Activity	Description
MCI	AGRIC: Crop Product	Distribution of wheat, saffron & fertilizer to substitute poppy cultivation.
MCI	AGRIC: Fruit Trees	IPM program - training of farmers to spray almond trees.
MCI	AGRIC: Fruit Trees	Horticulture survey of different villages.
MCI	AGRIC: Fruit Trees	IPM program - training of farmers to spray tone fruits.
VARA	AGRIC: Vet	2 DVM / 14 PVT / 15 BVWs (vaccination, deworming, Treatment).
DAFA	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of 246786 Sqm area (by demining teams).
MDC	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of different mine fields.
MCPA	MINES: Survey	214,042 Sqm grazing land.
MRS	WATER: Canal	Canal cleaning project.
SRCDA	WATER: Canal	Rehabilitation of 10 Km Brinck canal.
DACAAR	WATER: Drinking	Improvement of 70 shallow wells & installation of 70 hand pumps.
RDM	WATER: Drinking	Rehabilitation of pipes network & reservoir of Water supply system.

Table 11: NGOs activities in 1997

NGOs	Activity	Description
MCI	AGRIC: Crop Product	Production of 450 MT wheat seed & 250 MT maize & mung bean.
MCI	CONST: Pub.Building	Reconstruction of Hazarjuft hospital.
VARA	CONST: Pub.Building	Construction of 1 VFU for veterinary services (4 rooms each).
HAFO	CONST: Sanitation	Removing & cleaning of solid wastes.
SNI	CONST: Shelter	Helmand beam factory expansion.
IBNSINA	HEALTH: Vaccination	2 vaccinators
MRC	INCOME: Skill Train.	Embroidery training for 80 women by 16 trainers.
OMAR	MINES: Awareness	Mine awareness courses, using notebooks, mine ID books, poster, brochures, mine models & silk screen.
DAFA	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of 95,047 Sqm of battle area (by Manual)
DACAAR	WATER: Drinking	Pipe scheme
DACAAR	WATER: Drinking	Improvement of 50 shallow wells & installation of 50 hand pumps.
BCU	WATER: Structure	Reconstruction of Lashkarga Bazaar main canal intake.
MCI	WATER: Structure	Reconstruction of Boghra irrigation system.

Table 12: NGOs activities in 1998

NGOs	Activity	Description
MRS	CONST: Pub.Building	Construction of Haji Shir Mohd Khan school (5 rooms)
BCU	CONST: Sanitation	Construction of Baghra main canal embankment.
DACAAR	CONST: Sanitation	Construction of baths & latrines.
HI	MINES: Awareness	Community base mine awareness.
OMAR	MINES: Awareness	One team of local teachers of UNHCR encashment center.
DAFA	MINES: Clearance	Cleaning of 6,560 Sqm of battle area (by Manual).
MDC	MINES: Clearance	Clearance of different mine fields.
MCPA	MINES: Survey	1,430,505 Sqm agri-land / road / grazing.
HAFO	WATER: Canal	Reconstruction and cleaning of Bughra canal.
VARA	WATER: Canal	Rehabilitation of 11.5 Km canal.
DACAAR	WATER: Drinking	Improvement of shallow wells & installation of hand pumps.

Table:13. NGOs activities in 1999

Organization	Programs	Location by district	Remarks
UNHCR	Repatriation	On provincial level	Funded VARA, Afghan NGO for cleaning the Bagat Canal.
MCI	Engineering and Agriculture projects	Girishk, Garmser, Naw Zad,Nadi Ali,Marja, Lashkar Gah	Its main project is Boghra Canal, improved seed distribution program has been for the whole province. Being active for the past one decade.
DACCAR	Water supply	Nad-e-Ali, Marja, Sangin, Musa Qala, Naw Zad, Girishk, Garmser and Lashkar Gah	Has been highly appreciated by the authority and still exist in some districts.
UNICEF	Water supply, health and sanitation programs	Lashkar Gah,	Has recently hired a consultant to assess the priority needs and start sanitation program in the center.
WFP	Food for work programs	Lashkar Gah, Nad-e Ali, Nawa, Girishk and Marja	Being a donor, funding other agencies, covering the labor cost.
DAFA	Demining Program	Lashkar Gah, Nawa, Musa Qala, Kajaki, Nad-e- Ali	Operating from its sub-office in Kandahar.
WHO	Drug and equipment	Lashkar Gah	Not on Khanishin ular bases.
HAFO	Technical Training, survey, agriculture	Lashkar Gah, Girishk	It is the only NGO being present for a long time in the area.
MCPA	Mine clearing	Different districts	Operating from Kandahar, the areas of activity were not known to the Foreign Affairs department.
Shelter Now International	Housing Programs (material).	On provincial level	Producing girders and concrete slabs.
Afghan Red Crescent	Health	Lashkar Gah and surrounding areas.	After Bust Hospital being the second health facility with qualified staff.

13. ABBREVIATIONS

ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
ARDA	Agency for Rural Development of Afghanistan
ARO	Afghan Rehabilitation Organization
ARPD	Afghan Reconstruction and Planning Department
AURC	Ariana Unit Reconstruction Council
ASU	ACBAR Survey Unit
BURC	Bakhtar Unity Reconstruction Council
CRAA	Committee for Rehabilitation Aid to Afghanistan
DACCAR	Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
DAFA	Demining Agency for Afghanistan
ESAR	Engineering Services for Afghanistan Reconstruction
FRF	Farah Reconstruction Foundation
GAF	German Afghan Farmers Organization
HAFO	Helping Afghan Farmers Organization
HI	Handicap International
HRO	Helmand Reconstruction Organization
HVA	Helmand Valley Authority
IBNSINA	IBNSINA Public Health Programme for Afghanistan
KMA	Kandahar Momenyar Agency
MCI	Mercey Corps International
MCPA	Mine Clearance Planning Agency
MDC	Mine Detection Dog Center
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
MRC	Maiwand Reconstruction Council
MRORA	Maruf Relief Organization for Reconstruction of Afghanistan
MSH	Management Science for Health
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OMAR	Organization for Mine Clearance and Afghan Rehabilitation
RAFA	Reconstruction Authority for Afghanistan
RDM	Rural Development of Maihan
RIFRA	Relief Institution for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan
RPSA	Rehabilitation of Professional Schools in Afghanistan
SCA	Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
SNI	Shelter Now International
SRCDA	Sistan Rehabilitation and Construction Development Agency
SWFAO	South-West Farmers Assistance Organization
UNCHS	United Nations Center for Human Settlements
UNDCP	United Nations Drug Control Program
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Fund
UNO	University of Nebraska at Omaha
VARA	Voluntary Association for Rehabilitation of Afghanistan
VITA	Volunteers in Technical Assistance
WFP	World Food Program

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

Helmand is endowed with vast areas of agricultural land generally consisting of large size family farms in comparison to the eastern and central parts of Afghanistan. In 1996-97 the government census indicated Helmand had a population of 680,500.[1]

In Helmand there are a number of government departments: Rural Development, Public Health, Foreign Affairs, Information and Culture, Agriculture and Irrigation, Communication and Finance, Education, and Power.

However, in terms of aid agencies, it is the most neglected province in south-western Afghanistan. Helmand, a Taliban dominated province, is an attractive proposition to aid agencies committed to mobilize the already existing long term development projects and resources. Relief assistance is not necessarily required and the aid effort should be directed towards long term projects. A fine network of roads has been developed which serves all parts of the Helmand Valley. These roads are adequate to address all current needs but it may be necessary to pave certain parts of the current graveled roads. This does not, however, seem to be an immediate problem.

In Lashkar Gah the main problem is the damaged and blocked sewerage system. The inhabitants have been forced to build either a pit latrine or use open areas outside their houses. These practices create hygiene problems and cause a number of different diseases.

In Helmand, construction work should start and finish in the summer and fall months of the year while the water level of the rivers is low. The heads of the above mentioned government Departments expressed their enthusiasm to cooperate with NGOs in future projects in Helmand.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

Helmand Province is located in south-western Afghanistan between 30-33 degrees latitude and 63-65 degree longitude. Helmand is the biggest province of Afghanistan with 10% of the country land mass; its total area is 62,337 square km.[2] Helmand borders the provinces of Nimroz in the west, Ghor and Uruzgan in the north, Kandahar in the east, while in the south Helmand shares a common border with Pakistan. It was once part of Kandahar before becoming the separate province of Girishk in 1960, with the provincial capital located in the city of Girishk. After the name of the province was changed to Helmand its capital became Bust which was later renamed Lashkar Gah in 1963.[3]

The Helmand valley is characterized by low rainfall, cool winters and hot summers. Helmand consists mostly of flat land with some high areas in the north. Its altitude ranges between 1,000m

[1]Central Statistics Office of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, 1996-97, Estimated Population of Afghanistan.
[2]FAO, Peshawar, Mission Report and Draft of brief information Khanishin arding Helmand Irrigation System, 1998.
[3]Adamec, L.W. 1973, Farah and Southwestern Afghanistan, Historical and Political Gazetteer of Afghanistan. Vol. 2 Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt, Graz, Austria.

to 1,180m except in the mountainous areas where it reaches around 2,300m. The major mountains include the Baghran, Naw Zad, Khanishin, Malik Dokan, and Kushtagan. The major rivers in this province are the Helmand, Arghandab, Musa Qala, Naw Zad, Kajaki, and Bani. Administratively, Helmand is divided into 14 districts with the creation of Marja district under the Taliban government. The districts include the following:

4.1 Bust

The central district of Helmand is Bust with the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah its major city. It is bound by Nahr-e-Saraj in the north, Nad-e-Ali and Nawa Barakzai in the west, Kandahar in the east and Garmser in the south. Bust has 66 villages and a population of 56,217. It covers an area of 2,022 square km with the Helmand River flowing from north (Nahr-e-Saraj) to south (Garmser). The people speak Dari and Pushto.[4]

4.2 Khanishin

Khanishin shares borders with Nad-e-Ali in the north, Nawa Barakzai in the north-east, Nimroz Province in the west, Deshu in the south and Garmser in the south-east. This district is inhabited by the Isakzai Pushton tribes, with 21 villages spread across an area of 7,413 square km. It has a population of 21,114 inhabitants, while its centre is Khanishin.[5] The inhabitants of Khanishin speak Pushto and Balochi. [6]

4.3. Nahr-e-Saraj

Nahr-e-Saraj borders Musa Qala and Naw Zad in the north, Washer in the north-west, Nad-e-Ali in the west, Sarban Qala in the north-east, Bust in the south and Kandahar in the east. The Nahr-e-Saraj River passes through the centre of this district horizontally from north to south. Nahr-e-Saraj covers an area of 1662 square km and has a population of 71,898.[7] The centre of the district is Girishk and there are a total of 148 villages. In Nahr-e-Saraj the people speak Dari and Pushto.[8]

4.4 Sarban Qala

This district is bound by Kajaki in the north-east, Musa Qala in the west, Nahr-e-Saraj in the south and Kandahar province in the east. It covers an area of 290 square km and has a population of 20,348.[9] There are 44 villages and the centre of Sarban Qala is Sangin. The Helmand River marks the border with Musa Qala. The residents of this district speak Pushto and Dari. [10]

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[4]Figures about population and number of village are the outdated, for updated please refer to ACBAR's Village Baseline Survey of Helmand Province (forthcoming).
[5]Eighmy , T.H.,1990, Afghanistan Population inside and Out, USAID
[6]Dawlat Abadi, Basir Ahmad, 1992, Shinasnama-i-Afghanistan (Dari).
[7]Eighmy, T.H., 1990
[8]Dawlat Abadi, 1992
[9]Eighmy , T.H., 1990
[10]Dawlat Abadi, 1992

4.5 Musa Qala

This district borders Naw Zad in the west, Baghran in the north, Kajaki in the east and Sarban Qala and Nahr-e-Saraj in the south. It has 104 villages and a population of 41,159. The people speak Pushto.

4.6 Kajaki

Kajaki has a population of 64,955.[11] In the north it borders Baghran, in the west Musa Qala, in south the Sarban Qala, and in the east Uruzgan. The Helmand River divides Kajaki from Musa Qala in the west. It has 171 villages and its centre is also called Kajaki. A large part of the irrigation system is fed by the Helmand River. There are 360 karezes in Kajaki district, which date from the Ahmad Shah Baba era and are collectively known as the Ahmad Shai Karez. The language of the district is Pushto.[12]

4.7 Naw Zad

This district has a population of 41,543. It borders Musa Qala in the east, Nahr-e-Sarj in the south, Washir in the west, Baghran in the north-east and Farah Province in the north-west. Its centre is also called Naw Zad and it has 130 villages, while the language of the people is Pushto.

4.8 Washir

This district shares borders with Farah Province in the north-west, Nimroz Province in the south-west, Nad-e-Ali in the south and Naw Zad in the north-east. It is comprised of 63 villages and has a population of 14,304.

4.9 Garmser

Bust and Nawa Barakzai in the north, Kandahar Province in the east, Khanishin and Deshu in the west, and Pakistan in the south all border Garmser. There are a total of 116 villages in Garmser, while its centre is Darweshan. The population of Garmser is 44,698. The Helmand River flows through the district to Khanishin in the west.

4.10 Nad-e-Ali

Nad-e-Ali is a district in western-central Helmand; it borders Washer in the north, Khanishin and Nawa-e-Barakzia in the south, Nimroz in the west, and Bust in the east. It has a population of 51,819 and 21 villages. The center is called Nad-e-Ali. It covers 4,697 square km. Its people speak Pushto and Dari.

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[11]Ibide
[12] Ibide

4.11 Nawa Barakzai

This district is surrounded by Lashkar Gah in the east, Garmser in the south, Nad-e-Ali in the north-west and Khanishin in the west. It has an area of 657 square km and a population of 50,108. There are a total of 100 villages and the center is Khalach. The language of the district is Pushto.

4.12 Baghran

Ghor Province in the north, Uruzgan Province in the east, Farah Province and Naw Zad in the west, and Musa Qala and Kajaki in the south all border Baghran. It has 208 villages and a population of 44,292. Its center is called Baghran.

4.13 Deshu

This district is surrounded by Garmser in the east, Khanishin in the north, Nimroz Province in the west and Pakistan in the south. There are a total of 16 villages in Deshu with the center called Naqli-e- Deshu, while the population of the district is 19,099. The Helmand River flows through the district from the north-east to the west.

4.14 Marja

Marja, recently separated from Nad-e-Ali under the authority of the Taliban, is bordered by Nad-e-Ali in the north, Khanishin in the south, Nimroz in the west and Nawa Barakzai in the east. Marja has 93 villages and a population of 111,033. The people speak Pushto and Dari.

5. ETHNIC GROUPS

Pushtons are the largest ethnic group in Helmand. Uzbek tribes used to live in Nad-e-Ali and Marja districts, but due to the years of conflict they have been forced to flee to either neighboring countries or other parts of Afghanistan. The indigenous ethnic composition of Helmand Province is basically Durrani Pushton from the northern foothills into the central Helmand River basin. The southern part of the province is Baluch with a Brahui community centered in Kwaja Ali which separates the Baluch villages from the Pushton villages. There are Pushton communities of Brahui to be found in the Pushton territory of Bagat. The ethnic boundary is not clear-cut but there appears to be some overlap of Baluch households in Pushton territories but not vice-versa.

The Pushton tribal composition of the province ranges from the very homogeneous areas of Alizai in the north (Musa Qala and Zamin Dawar) to mixed Isakzai and Alikozai concentrations in the west (Naw Zad) and into the lower and flatter terrain (Sangin and Girishk) of the Helmand River basin. The Achekzai and Noorzai tribes are to be found in the southern part of Shamalan and into Darweshan. Through Darweshan there are Alizai, Alikozai and Andar, while Isakzai dominate the border area with Khanishin and as far south as Deshu. Further south two villages of Pushton Baretz are located in Baluchi territory.

There are several thousand families of nomads migrating on a Khanishin ular schedule over known routes into Helmand Province in the late fall, going out again to summer pastures to the north in early spring. Generally these are Pushton tribal groups. Others use the desert pastures of the Khanishin istan (sandy Khanishin ion) and maintain a migration pattern that does not take them out of the province. These are mostly Brahui and Baluch tribesmen.

Water is the determining factor in winter camp location and there are several patterns of winter camping in the province. Some nomads camp on government land along the edges of the settled areas like Nad-e-Ali and Marja, taking advantage of water sources that originate from the major irrigation channels and waste ways. Around the Helmand river flood plains, outside the agricultural areas, are important winter camping areas. Camping in and around farm villages is also a common camping pattern and sometimes involves groups of related tribal origins, e.g., Barakzai nomads camping in Barakzai villages. Some nomads have arrangements with villagers of a long-term nature, i.e. the same tents could be found in the same locations every winter. One of the main sources of grazing in the agricultural areas is along the edges of the numerous ditches and drains.

Generally, the nomads that are found in the upper reaches of the Helmand river are of the Durrani tribal groups. Their major route is mainly north into Ghor and north-east into Uruzgan via the mountainous area of Siyahband. A number of nomadic families were remaining in the Helmand basin where they worked as farm laborers. These were usually groups that had faced some disaster with their herds, which were reduced in size, and it was no longer profitable to continue to migrate with the seasons.

6. AGRICULTURE

Helmand is an agricultural province with a modern irrigation network constructed between the late 1950s and early 1970s. The climate of Helmand Province makes it suitable for a variety of field and horticultural crops. The agriculture growth is extensive both from a quantitative and qualitative point of view. The main crops are wheat, maize, barely, mung bean and rice. Varieties of fruits cultivated include grapes, pomegranates, apricots, peaches, plums, mulberries, almonds and watermelons; while the major vegetable crops grown are onion, potatoes, egg plants, carrots, okra, spinach, leeks, pepper, cucumber, turnips and radish. Other crops include, tobacco and sugar beet. Opium poppy is also grown by the majority of farmers. The best quality cotton in Afghanistan is produced in Helmand Province. Cotton is a long established cash crop in Helmand most of which is being sold in Pakistan.

While, the deserts and sand hills of Helmand have served as a good base for stock breeding particularly in the northern areas of Helmand. Transportation is another part of the Helmand economy which is heavily reliant upon the production levels of the agricultural sector.

Helmand retained its dominant position as the cultivator and producer of opium with almost half of the total production in Afghanistan in 1998 coming from Helmand. [13] Helmand and Kandahar together accounted for approximately 72% of the opium poppy cultivated in Afghanistan in

[13]United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), Annual Opium Poppy Survey, 1998

1998. Nad-e-Ali, Marja, Shamalan, Girishk and connecting areas make up a very large portion of the agricultural land in Helmand province and they are also areas that before the war did not produce opium.[14]

Before the war the biggest agricultural problem in Helmand was crop disease, followed by bird or rat damage to crops, while animal disease, farm power, and irrigation water were all less important. However, by 1987 the effects of war were easily the main constraint to agricultural productivity. And linked to this, farm power, in an area that had depended heavily on tractors before the war, was the main physical input constraint. Helmand's sophisticated irrigation system was targeted in the war and water supplies became an important problem. There had been heavy use of fertilizer and even a small shortage presented the farmers with a significant problem. Consequently, crop disease, which was the biggest problem before the war, became much less significant in comparison to farm power and irrigation canals, as the war damaged and destroyed agricultural infrastructure.

In 1989, the direct effect of war was perceived as a minor problem, as the rehabilitation of the irrigation system became the priority. Fertilizer, farm power, seed availability and crop protection were also important constraints. In 1990, as before the war in 1978, the greatest agricultural constraint was crop diseases. Second was irrigation water, a problem that had been of greatest concern in 1988 and 1989, while weed infestation and the lack of farm power were the third and fourth most significant limitation on productivity respectively.[15]

7. HEALTH FACILITIES

Efforts have been made by the local authorities as well as by some aid agencies to solve the health problem of the Helmand Valley. The existing health facilities in Helmand Province are as follow:

1. Bust Hospital, located in the provincial capital Lashkar Gah, has 55 beds, is well equipped, and operational. It is frequented by the residents of the city and villagers from the neighboring districts. It has an Out Patients Department (OPD) for female and male patients, ENT, Eye, Pediatric, Medical, TB, X-ray and Dressing units. Apart from the above services, it has Obstetrics and Gynecology units. There are a total number of 26 doctors working in the hospital, while the number of nurses is 34. Out of the 60 doctors and nurses, there are 21 male and 5 female doctors, 26 male and 8 female nurses. The hospital also has 10 auxiliary staff. The water latrines inside the hospital are not functioning.

The hospital is run by the Taliban authorities, but some aid agencies support it: UNICEF is providing human vaccines, and WHO is supplying drugs and equipment. The Health Department stated that WFP was providing food for the patients, but when its sub-office in Kandahar was contacted they contradicted the statement. The director of health, based in Bust Hospital, is not a doctor by profession but an administrator from the Taliban authorities.

[14]United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) Report, 1999
[15]Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), Khanishin ional Farming Problems, Eleventh Report, 1991.

2. The Afghan Red Crescent Hospital, located in Lashkar Gah, is funded by ICRC and the Red Crescent Federation. Apart from the above two main donors, UNICEF is helping it with immunization programs. It has OPD (male and female), dressing and vaccination centres. The hospital has one medical doctor, 8 nurses, one health educator and 4 other auxiliary staff.

The Afghan Red Crescent also delivers and exchanges messages from prisoners of war arrested by the Taliban and the opposition. In order to take into account the problems of children and their mothers it is strongly recommended to interested agencies to establish a mother and child care clinic in the building occupied by the Afghan Red Crescent.

3. There are some other clinics in different districts of Helmand Province which are summarized in Table 1.

Table. 1. Health facilities of Helmand Province.[16]

Type of facility	Number of staff		Location by District	Remarks
	Doctor	Nurse		
Hospital	5	6	Nahr-e-Saraj	Funded by MoPH with a helping hand from Ibnsina
Hospital	2	8	Garmser	Has been funded and built by MCI.
Basic Health Unit	Unknown	Unknown	Kajaki	Funded by MoPH
Basic Health Unit	1	8	Sarban Qala	Funded by MoPH
Basic Health Unit	1	6	Nad-e-Ali	Funded by MoPH
Basic Health Unit	1	8	Nawa-e-Barakzia	Funded by MoPH
Basic Health Unit	2	6	Marja	Funded by MoPH
Basic Health Unit	1	1	Khanishin	Has been set up in a shop.
Basic Health Unit	None	None	Deshu	It used to have a basic health unit, but now its building is ruined.
Basic Health Unit	None	None	Baghran	Has no health ficility.
Basic Health Unit	None	None	Musa Qala	Has no health facility.

According to the Public Health Department, all the units need to be repaired or reconstructed except the one in Garmser District built by MCI. The MoPH is the only funding source, with limited support from some aid agencies, for the above health facilities. Lashkar Gah has a number of pharmacies run by medical and non-medical persons stocked with basic drugs. The drugs available in the bazaar are either Pakistani or Iranian. Doctors boards, both male and female, are

[16]Helmand's Health Department based in Bust Hospital.

HELMAND PROFILE



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